

Message Text

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ACTION SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 SP-02 H-01 INR-10
INRE-00 NSCE-00 DOE-15 SOE-02 DOEE-00 /056 W
-----009435 291202Z /41

O 271525Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0000
INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO
AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BRASILIA 4235

CARACAS FOR AMBASSADOR SAYRE

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS:

SUBJ: AMBASSADOR SMITH'S VISIT TO BRAZIL - BRAZILIAN PROPOSAL
FOR PROGRAM

REF: (A) BRASILIA 4201, (B) BRASILIA 3522

1. THIS AFTERNOON MAY 26, COUNSELOR SARDENBERG (ADVISOR TO
FOREIGN MINISTER FOR BILATERAL POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS)
ASKED ECON/COMM COUNSELOR FOR DISCUSSION OF AMBASSADOR SMITH'S
VISIT. SARDENBERG SAID HE NOW HAD SOME REPLIES TO EMBASSY'S
QUESTIONS AND PROVIDED COUNSELOR WITH PAPER CAPTIONED "TENTATIVE
PROGRAM FOR THE VISIT OF AMBASSADOR SMITH."

2. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF PROGRAM PROPOSED BY GOB:

JUNE 12 (MONDAY)

10:30 - MEETING WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER

11:00 - WORKING SESSION UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE FOREIGN
MINISTRY AND WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF THE PRESIDENT OF NUCLEBRAS
AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND ENERGY,
CNEN, AND THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL.

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16:30 - NEW WORKING SESSION, IF NECESSARY

JUNE 13 (TUESDAY)

A.M. - MEETING WITH THE MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY

13:00 - LUNCH IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY HOSTED BY THE SECRETARY
GENERAL

15:30 - FINAL WORKING SESSION

3. DURING THE DISCUSSION OF THE DOCUMENT (WHICH IS IN PORTUGUESE),
SARDENBERG SAID:

(A) FOREIGN MINISTER SILVEIRA WOULD PERSONALLY CHAIR THE BRAZILIAN
DELEGATION DURING THE WORKING SESSIONS; HOWEVER, HE HAD A
COMMITMENT TUESDAY MORNING, AND SO HE WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO JOIN
THE MEETING WITH THE MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY.

(B) THE INDICATED MEETING BETWEEN AMBASSADOR SMITH AND THE FOREIGN
MINISTER WAS NOT A FIRM BRAZILIAN PROPOSAL; IT WAS UP TO AMBASSADOR
SMITH.

(C) THE PRESIDENT OF THE CNENN HERVASIO DE CARVALHO, WOULD BE
TRAVELLING OVERSEAS, AND IT WAS NOT YET CLEAR WHETHER HE WOULD
BE BACK AND BE ABLE TO PARTICIPATE.

(D) THERE WOULD BE SOME STAFF MEMBERS FROM THE NATIONAL
SECURITY COUNCIL IN THE ROOM; AS WE KNEW, SUCH STAFF MEMBERS
WERE PARTICIPATING IN MEETINGS FROM TIME TO TIME.

4. SARDENBERG STRESSED THAT THE TALKS WOULD BE HELD UNDER THE
AUSPICES OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY. HE COMMENTED THAT THE
BRAZILIAN AUTHORITIES HAD CONSIDERED THE QUESTION OF A VISIT
BY AMBASSADOR SMITH TO SOME "NUCLEAR INSTALLATION." (IN AN
EARLIER CONVERSATION, COUNSELOR HAD ON AN INFORMAL AND PRELIMINARY
BASIS SUGGESTED THAT AMBASSADOR SMITH WOULD PERHAPS BE
INTERESTED IN VISITING NUCLEBRAS AND ANGRA I).
THE GOB PREFERRED NOT TO HAVE SUCH A VISIT. THE GOVERNMENT WAS
CONCERNED TO AVOID THE IMPRESSION THAT AMBASSADOR SMITH WAS
"INSPECTING BRAZILIAN FACILITIES." SUCH A VISIT WOULD RESULT
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IN SPECULATION; IN THE ABSENCE OF HARD NEWS, THE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 BRASILIA 4235

CARACAS FOR AMBASSADOR SAYRE

PRESS WOULD INVENT THINGS.

5. THE COUNSELOR WOUNDERED ABOUT BRAZILIAN IDEAS FOR THE AGENDA. SARDENBERG SAID THAT THEY WOULD LEAVE THIS TO AMBASSADOR SMITH. (SOMEWHAT EARLIER, HE HAD WOVEN INTO THE CONVERSATION THE REMARK THAT "AMBASSADOR SMITH WOULD BE COMING TO EXPLAIN THE NON-PROLIFERATION ACT.")

6. SARDENBERG EXPRESSED AN INTEREST IN THE COMPOSITION AMBASSADOR SMITH'S DELEGATION AND SAID HE WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING ANY INFORMATION AND COMMENTS WE MIGHT HAVE.

7. COMMENT: COUNSELOR REFRAINED FROM ANY COMMENT ON THE SCHEDULE ITSELF OR PROPOSED LIMITATION OF AMBASSADOR SMITH'S OFFICIAL VISIT TO BRAZILIA. WHILE THE PRESENTATION WAS MADE IN AN ATMOSPHERE OF CORDIALITY, WE DO NOT FIND THE PROPOSED FORMAT FOR THE TALKS ESPECIALLY ENCOURAGING.

(A) SILVEIRA'S PARTICIPATION THROUGHOUT THE MEETINGS: WHILE WE EXPECTED THIS, THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S EXCEEDINGLY DISCURSIVE STYLE WILL MAKE IT DIFFICULT TO ADDRESS SPECIFICS IN A SUSTAINED AND SYSTEMATIC MANNER.

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(B) SPACING OF THE MEETINGS: THE GENEROUS SPACING COULD BE INTERPRETED AS INTENDED TO REDUCE THE AMOUNT OF MEETING TIME; (THIS IMPRESSION IS REINFORCED BY THE PHRASE "IF NECESSARY"-- WHICH MAY ALSO BE INTENDED TO SIGNAL A WARNING). ALTERNATIVELY, HOWEVER, THE PROPOSED TIMETABLE COULD BE INTENDED TO ALLOW THE BRAZILIAN SIDE TIME FOR CONSULTATION (OR GIVE THE FOREIGN MINISTER TIME TO DISPATCH OTHER URGENT BUSINESS).

WE CONSIDER THE FIRST INTERPRETATION THE MORE PROBABLE ONE.

(C) CONTROL OF THE MEETINGS BY SILVEIRA: AS IN EARLIER CONSULTATIONS, SUCH AS DEPUTY SECRETARY CHRISTOPHERS VISIT, THE FOREIGN MINISTER EVIDENTLY PLANS TO REMAIN IN FULL CONTROL OF THE PROCEEDINGS, NOTABLY LACKING (AS EXPECTED) IS ANY REFERENCE TO THE POSSIBILITY OF WORKING-LEVEL EXCHANGES TO EXPLORE TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF THE ISSUES.

(D) REMINDER OF SARDENBERG OF THE PURPOSE OF THE TALKS.

8. AMBASSADOR SMITH'S VISIT WILL, OF COURSE, AROUSE A LIVELY INTEREST BY THE BRAZILIAN PRESS WITH WHICH THE TWO SIDES WILL HAVE TO

DEAL. WE BELIEVE AMBASSADOR SMITH WILL WISH TO MEET THE PRESS TO ANSWER QUESTIONS ON THE INTEND OF THE US LEGISLATION. WE THUS CONSIDER THE MORE LIKELY REAL REASONS THE GOB DOES NOT WISH AMBASSADOR SMITH TO VISIT ANGR I AND NUCLEBRAS ARE THAT SUCH VISITS WOULD REMIND THE BRAZILIAN PUBLIC OF THE PRESENCE OF US NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY IN BRAZIL AND THAT THE GOB WISHES TO AVOID ANY ACT THAT MIGHT GIVE RISE TO SPECULATION ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF THE RESUMPTION OF US-BRAZILIAN COOPERATION.

9. RECOMMENDATION ON AGENDA: IN VIEW OF THE EVIDENT LACK OF INTEREST ON THE BRAZILIAN SIDE, WE WITHDRAW OUR PROPOSAL (REFTEL A) FOR A SIMPLE AGENDA TO BE PRESENTED TO THE GOB IN ADVANCE OF THE MEETING. THE GOB EVIDENTLY EXPECTS A SIMPLE STRAIGHTFORWARD EXPOSITION OF THE TERMS OF THE LEGISLATION AS THEY APPLY TO THE REFUELING OF ANGRA I.
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JOHNSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ITINERARY, AMBASSADORS, VISITS, NUCLEAR COOPERATION PROGRAMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BRASIL04235
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: DG ALTERED
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780225-0315
Format: TEL
From: BRASILIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780511/aaaaajcp.tel
Line Count: 195
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 00723895-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 BRASILIA 4201, 78 BRASILIA 3522
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2538139
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AMBASSADOR SMITH'S VISIT TO BRAZIL - BRAZILIAN PROPOSAL FOR PROGRAM
TAGS: ENRG, MNUC, PARM, OVIP, BR, (SMITH, GERALD C)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/00723895-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014